

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for guiding sheets to a sheet processing machine, which comprises the step of:

generating an overlapping stream of sheets guided over a table in a sheet transport direction;

reducing an adhesion force between two sheets following one another in the overlapping stream by lifting a sheet trailing edge of a first sheet with a blown air jet aimed in the sheet transport direction blown out substantially tangentially over the first sheet; and

lifting the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet by blowing under the sheet from behind the sheet.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises aligning the first sheet in a sheet

transport direction before the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet is lifted.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 3, which further comprises aligning the first sheet laterally at a same time as the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet is lifted.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 3, which further comprises aligning the first sheet laterally after the sheet trailing edge of the first sheet has been lifted.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An apparatus for guiding sheets to a sheet processing machine, the apparatus comprising:

a lifting device for reducing an adhesion force between two sheets following one another in an overlapping stream by lifting a sheet trailing edge of a first sheet, said lifting device disposed above the first sheet of the overlapping stream, said lifting device including at least one nozzle with an air jet aimed in a sheet transport direction substantially tangentially over the first sheet of the overlapping stream, and said lifting device having a free jet nozzle in addition to said nozzle, said free jet nozzle being

aimed at the overlapping sheet stream obliquely from above in
the sheet transport direction.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6,
further comprising a front edge alignment device, said lifting
device being disposed at a distance of a sheet length to be
processed from said front edge alignment device.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim
7, wherein said lifting device can be adjusted in [[a]] the
sheet transport direction to a sheet format to be processed.

Claims 9-11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (previously presented): The apparatus according to
claim 6, wherein said nozzle is formed as a blowing/suction
nozzle and can be acted on with blown air.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus according to claim 12,
wherein said nozzle is formed as a suction gripper and can be
acted on with a vacuum.

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said nozzle and said free jet nozzle can be activated at a cycle rate of the sheet processing machine.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A printing press, comprising:

a sheet stack feeder;

a first lifting apparatus for forming an overlapping stream and disposed adjacent said sheet stack feeder; and

a second lifting apparatus disposed above a first sheet of the overlapping stream, said second lifting apparatus being an air jet aimed in a sheet transport direction substantially tangentially over the first sheet of the overlapping stream, said second lifting apparatus having at least one nozzle, and said second lifting apparatus having a free jet nozzle in addition to said nozzle, said free jet nozzle being aimed at the overlapping sheet stream obliquely from above in the sheet transport direction.

A-3930 - Application No. 10/799,098
Response to Office action May 9, 2008
Response submitted June 9, 2008

Claim 17 (new): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
said nozzle and said free jet nozzle are spaced apart from
each other in the sheet transport direction.